



VISION 2020 FISCAL RESOURCES TASK GROUP  
Meeting Minutes 7:30 PM 4\_21\_16  
Senior Center First Floor Conference Room

ATTENDEES: Gordon Jamieson (Co-Chair), Brian Hasbrouck, Pete Howard (Secretary); David Gabarino (Co-Chair)

**REPORT ON TRUE STORY THEATER PERFORMANCE:** Gordon reported that this performance, whose theme was money was well attended and well done. He volunteered & used the time to describe the FRTG. Among other interpretations, the actors picked up on the transparency theme using a green scarf. Gordon enjoyed the performance. He thinks similar performances would be appropriate for other town committees.

**WORK DAY AT RES:** Brian described the recent day he spent helping clean up the Res. This effort was organized by the Vision 2020 Reservoir Committee of the Environment Task Group. Much attention was paid to the native wild flower garden that this group planted and maintains on both sides of the spillway.

**TOWN MEETING WARRANT:** Gordon led a discussion of the warrant with emphasis on the following matters.

**Consent Agenda:** Proposed by the Moderator, this would list all the articles that the meeting agreed were not controversial. The meeting would approve the recommended votes on the entire list with a single vote thus saving some time. The Moderator did not suggest a means of creating this list. Gordon objects to this idea because it would confuse the members and delay developing the routine of the meeting. He has told the Moderator this and suggested that he consider reorganizing the order of the articles so the less important and less controversial come first as the FRTG proposed a couple of years ago. Incidentally, the Town Meeting already uses a similar technique to approve most of the 31 line items in the budget.

**Zoning Changes:** We discussed the zoning changes. A majority of the members were strongly opposed to the changes that would restrict home owners from enlarging their homes or from maximizing their property's value. Pete explained that only a few of the articles would have that effect. All agreed that the parking and mixed use articles were desirable as they should foster redevelopment and increase commercial property value. Pete explained that it was likely that the ARB, aware of such opposition, might change their recommended votes on the article affecting residential property to no action.

**School Budget:** Gordon suggested that the procedure for developing this budget is flawed. The Long Range Planning Committee, which includes the CFO of the Schools, sets a bottom line. The Superintendent gathers input from staff and principals and negotiates distribution of the bottom line with the School Committee. There was a spirited discussion.

**School Buildings:** Because of a rather sudden increase in enrollment with a predicted continual growth, the elementary schools and middle school are too small. There are 2 possible approaches to the middle school. A consultant has been hired to estimate the costs of various approaches. AHS needs renovation and the MSBA requires a detailed plan before it will consider matching funds. In addition, Minuteman Tech needs a new building. Town Meeting may be asked to approve bonding for these projects contingent on approval of a debt exclusion override vote by the town in June. This topic also generated heated discussion with a majority favoring using Gibbs rather than expanding Ottoson. A minority was cool to Minuteman Tech.

**NEXT MEETING:** May 19, 2016

Meetings monthly - 3rd Thursdays 7:30 PM - Usually in Senior Center